

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /100 W

----- 034935

R 231346 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4183

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 2587

DEPT PASS CAIRO BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, LE, SY, SA

SUBJ: SAG CONTACTS ON LEBANESE- SYRIAN SITUATION

1. JIDDA DIALY AL- BLAAD REPORTED JUNE 20 AND 21 ON OFFICIAL VISIT OF SAUDI CENTRAL PLANNING MINISTER HISHAM NAZIR TO SYRIA. RESULTS OF VISIT INCLUDE RENEWAL OF TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED LAST YEAR BETWEEN SYRIA AND SAUDI ARABIA, AND REAFFIRMATION BY PRESIDENT ASAD OF HIS DESIRE FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

2. PAPER ALSO NOTED THAT DURING CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KHADDAM, NAZIR EXPRESSED WISH FOR SPEEDY RETURN OF SYRIAN- LEBANESE RELATIONS TO PREVIOUS STATE. KHADDAM'S LESS THAN REMARKABLE REPLY COMMITTED HIS GOVERNMENT TO A DESIRE TO SAFEGUARD LEBANON'S INTERESTS AND THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE'S SECURITY.

3. NAZIR ARRIVED IN LEBANON JUNE 21, WHERE, ACCORDING TO AL-
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BLADD HE IS EXPECTED TO BRIEF GOL ON RESULTS OF HIS SYRIAN TALKS
CONCERNING THE SYRIAN- LEBANESE CRISIS.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST INDICATION OF ANY SAG MEDIATORY ROLE
IN SYRIA- LEBANON DISPUTE. NAZIR, WHILE NOT A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL
FAMILY, IS A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, WESTERN- EDUCATED SAUDI WHO WOULD
BE A LOGICAL CHOICE TO VISIT SYRIA FOR DISCUSSIONS OBSENSIBLY OF
BILATERAL TRADE QUESTIONS WHILE ALSO ATTEMPTING GET SYRIAN ACQUI-
ESCENSE TO REOPENED LEBANESE BORDER, ISSUE IN WHICH SAG HAS
DEFINITE DIRECT INTERESTS. FACT THAT VISIT CAME IN MIDST OF SAG
BUDGET PREPARATIONS, IN WHICH NZAIR DEEPLY INVOLVED, WOULD TEND
INDICATE MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES INVOLVED THAN TRADE PROTOCOL.
THACHER

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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DHAHRAN
KUWAIT
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